

keep our communities fed and our cars fueled.

I am eager to advocate for the heroes who put their lives on the line to protect our families and our future. I look forward to bringing voices from all of our communities to Congress as we tackle the most important issues facing our country.

Mr. Speaker, I thank them for trusting me to represent them.

GUN VIOLENCE

(Mr. FROST asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because our Nation continues to have blood on its hands. This week, we, once again, bore witness to the senseless murder of dozens of innocent people where States like California experienced three mass shootings in just 44 hours.

How many more sisters, brothers, siblings, parents, grandparents, and loved ones have to be senselessly shot and killed?

That doesn't sound like freedom to me. Our people deserve the freedom to live without the fear of gun violence, the freedom to go to the grocery store, to school, and to live life for God's sakes.

When will we stop valuing guns more than human life?

Can anyone in this Chamber look a parent in the eyes who just lost a child due to gun violence and tell them that their child isn't worth meaningful action?

Because I won't.

Yet, here we are today, another shooting, another day, and another community devastated due to senseless gun violence.

SUPPORTING WORKING FAMILIES

(Ms. CROCKETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today gravely concerned about the passage of H.R. 21.

Texas' hardworking families sent me to Washington to represent them in good faith, and dozens of them fear the passage of this bill.

My constituents are working every single day to make ends meet and took time out of their day to share their fears of this bill becoming law.

Why?

Because this Republican bill will raise costs on working families across the country.

When Hurricane Gustav hit my home State of Texas, key energy supplies went offline, and we relied on the quick response from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to avoid catastrophe.

The SPR has been used countless times to keep the lights on during emergencies. H.R. 21 will make it im-

possible for our government to quickly respond to emergencies, leaving Americans abandoned in the dark when they are most in need.

After going a week without electing a Speaker, I think Congress should get its own House in order before trying to claim the powers of the President or interfere with the energy market.

SOCIAL SECURITY

(Ms. BALINT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Speaker, over 65 million Americans rely on Social Security benefits. They shouldn't have to choose between essentials like medication, food, or housing. That is why it is our job to expand and shore up Social Security and not gut it.

Cutting these programs hurts the poorest and most vulnerable among us. We must support seniors to age with dignity. We must ensure that Americans with disabilities receive the security they depend on. Social Security is an essential tool that lifts up 9 million American women out of poverty.

Two-thirds of my home State, Vermont, are middle-aged or older. We need to expand the infrastructure and funding to fully support them in their retirement. We owe them this.

I want Vermonters and all Americans to know I will not stop fighting to protect their hard-earned benefits.

MOMENTS IN TIME THAT IMPACT THE REST OF TIME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise.

Today, I would like to thank the Speaker of the House, Speaker MCCARTHY, and the leadership on the Republican side as well as Minority Leader JEFFRIES and the leadership on the Democratic side for affording me this opportunity to be heard.

And still I rise, Mr. Speaker, and I rise today because there are moments in time that impact the rest of time. January 27 of 1945 was such a time.

January 27, 1945: It is said there are days that will live in infamy. This has to be at the top of the list of such days because today we will commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day because of an event that took place on January 27, 1945.

Please allow me to share with you, Mr. Speaker, some information that I have from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

On January 27, 1945, the Soviet Army entered Auschwitz and liberated more than 7,000 remaining prisoners who were mostly ill and dying. It is estimated, Mr. Speaker, that at minimum,

1.3 million people were deported to Auschwitz between 1940 and 1945. Of these, at least 1.1 million people were murdered.

One person who survived—whose name I shall not reveal but is available to me for those who might want to make a further inquiry—indicated: "So I was hiding out in the heap of dead bodies because in the last week when the crematoria didn't function at all, the bodies were just building up higher and higher."

Another person indicated: "And they said, 'From now on you do not answer by your name. Your name is your number.' And the delusion, the disappointment, the discouragement that I felt, I felt like I was not a human person anymore."

This is what happened to people at Auschwitz—human beings being reduced to numbers and sentenced to death, innocent people.

Another article from the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust in the U.K. indicates:

27 January 1945, liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

On 27 January 1945, Soviet soldiers liberated Auschwitz-Birkenau the largest Nazi concentration and extermination camp.

Mr. Speaker, many people focus on the concentration aspect of what happened there, and we should. But the horrific occurrence included extermination. This means in everyday language the murder of innocent people.

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This article goes on to indicate:

"When Soviet soldiers arrived, they found several thousand emaciated survivors and the smoldering remains of gas chambers and crematoria after the Nazis had attempted to destroy evidence of their crimes."

An article from "This Day in History" on history.com indicates, on January 27, 1945, Auschwitz is liberated.

"On January 27, 1945, Soviet troops enter Auschwitz, Poland, freeing the survivors of the network of concentration camps—and finally revealing to the world the depth of the horrors perpetrated there.

"Auschwitz was really a group of camps, designated I, II, and III. There were also 40 smaller 'satellite' camps."

This was a commercial operation, as it were, wherein there was a systemic means by which persons were being put to death. These are my words.

Continuing with the words from the article:

"It was at Auschwitz II, at Birkenau, established in October 1941, that the SS created a complex, monstrosity orchestrated killing ground: 300 prison barracks; 4 'bathhouses' in which prisoners were gassed; corpse cellars; and cremating ovens."

Stepping aside for a moment, it seems that it is difficult for some people to believe what actually occurred. It is so horrific that some human minds refuse to accept what occurred.